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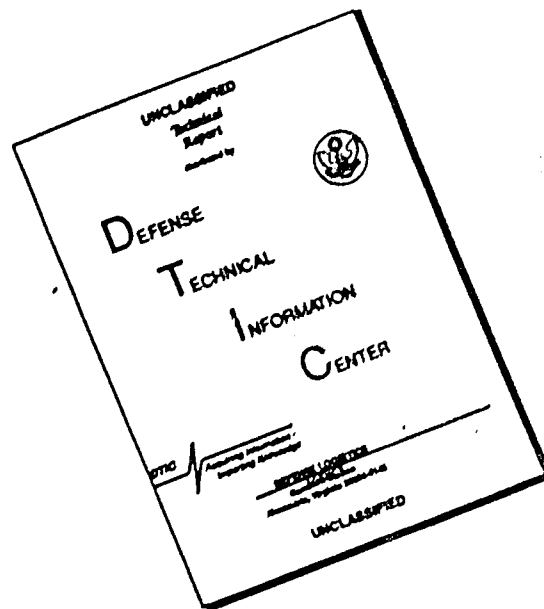
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DAAG-PAP-A (M) (15 Feb 73) DAED-DOF

28 February 1973

SUBJECT: Operational Reports - Lessons Learned, Hqs., 554th Engr Bn, 159th Engr Gp, 31st Engr Bn, 84th Engr Bn, 92d Engr Bn for Period Ending 31 October 1971 (P)

SEE 11 FEBRUARY 1973

Distribution 11 Feb 73. U.S. Army only; Test and Eval. requests for this document must be referred to DAAG-PAP-A (M) (15 Feb 73) DAED-DOF

1. Section 1 of reports, subject as above, are forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with para 4b, AR 120-10.

2. The information contained in these reports is provided to insure that lessons learned during current operations are used to the benefit of future operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material, as appropriate. Reports should not be interpreted as the official view of the Department of the Army, or of any agency of the Department of the Army.

3. Information of actions initiated as a result of your evaluation should be forwarded to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, AFM: DAED-DOF, within 90 days of receipt of this letter.

4. A Section 1 of subject reports is not pertinent to the lessons learned program, it has been omitted.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Verne L. Bowers

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

5 Incl

1. DAED-DOF 712061
2. DAED-DOF 712080
3. DAED-DOF 712063
4. DAED-DOF 712155
5. DAED-DOF 712062

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(Continued on page 2)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 554TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONTRACT)
AFC SAI FIAICISC 96493

AVH LC-00

20 1 FEBRU 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 554th Engr Bn, Period
ending 31 Oct 71, FC: C&E-65 (P3)

THRU: Asst. Dir. of Staff, 554th Engineer Group, Attn: AVH LC-00, AF 96493
Corresponding General, USVHRCOMDV, ATTN: AVCC-M, AF 96493
Corresponding General, USVHRCOMDV, ATTN: AVHRC, AF 96493
Corresponding General, USVHRCOMDV, ATTN: AVHRC, AF 96493

T: Asst. Dir. of Staff, 554th Engineer Group
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20315

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AVEGBO-CC

20 November 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report- Lessons Learned, 554th Engr Bn, Period
ending 31 Oct 71, RCS CSFOR--65 (R3)

2. Lessons Learned: Commanders Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendation

a. Personnel:

(1) Financial and legal assistance to outlying base camps

(2) Observations: Personnel located in remote areas with financial and legal problems lose valuable time in traveling to Long Binh to visit the central finance facility and to obtain legal counsel.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report- Lessons Learned, 554TH ENGR BN, period ending 31 Oct 71, RCS CSPOA-65 (R3)

(b) Evaluation: Service members who experience legal or financial problems must travel to Long Binh. This results in a loss to the units of at least four days per man. For a brief period a JAG lawyer visited the 554th on a weekly basis. This reduced the personnel going to Long Binh substantially.

(c) Recommendation: That finance and legal teams be required to visit major gulfing commands, monthly for finance teams and weekly for legal teams.

(d) Command Actions: This unit is not scheduled to receive a monthly visit from 3 finance personnel.

b. Intelligence: None

c. Operations:

(1) Provision of culverts in lateral drainage ditches in populated areas, to Vietnamese National Police, to provide access to their homes.

(a) Observation: When built in lateral drainage ditches in populated areas, Vietnamese National Police will be able to enter their homes in case of emergency.

(b) Evaluation: The practice of building culverts in the ditches in front of their homes has resulted in a lack of adequate drainage, a critical factor during the monsoon season. To redo the culverts to only drainages constructed by the 554th results in hard filling of the ditches by the Vietnamese. The 554th ENGR BN has been installing half culverts for access to private homes and Vietnamese businesses along the road. This has helped improve community relations and reduced drain problems.

(c) Recommendation: When constructing through populated areas consideration should be given to constructing culverts to provide access to all driveways and entrances.

(1) Command Actions: The 554th ENGR BN is installing culverts to provide entrances to buildings and driveways along QL-20.

(2) Paving Shoulders:

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20 November 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report- Lessons Learned. 554th Engr Bn. Period
ending 31 Oct 71. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)

(a) Observation: The MACV specification for highway construction requires that shoulders be sealed with a double bituminous surface treatment (DBST) or pavel.

(b) Evaluation: Sealing shoulders using DBST is time consuming and is of lower quality than paving the shoulders with asphaltic concrete. Originally, asphaltic concrete was blade laid on the shoulders. However, inexperienced grader operators and blade laying itself was very wasteful. Use of the asphalt paver reduced the quantity of asphalt waste and increased efficiency.

Since the paver's minimum width of paving is 10 feet, a 2 foot cutoff shoe was used to pave the 8 foot shoulders. In areas where the first lift of pavement did not include the required 4 foot shoulders, the surface course was extended to include the four foot shoulders. Use of the paver reduced waste in both cases.

(c) Recommendation: Shoulders should be paved at the same time as the 1st lift. In cases where the first lift is complete and 8 foot shoulders remain to be completed an asphalt paving machine with 2 foot cutoff shoes should be used. In cases where four foot shoulders are not paved and the first lift is complete, the second lift should be widened to include paving the shoulders.

(d) Command Action: Shoulders are paved using the asphalt paver as described above.

(3) Patching Operations During The Monsoon Season:

(a) Observation: Construction schedules required units to continue road repairs during the monsoon season.

(b) Evaluation: Patching crews working during the monsoon season often found it impossible to cover the patches before the daily rains. Water would collect in the open patches saturating the base course and increasing the repair work required. Two methods were adopted to overcome this difficulty. Cement was mixed with the top layer of base course sealing the patch. Compressed air was used to remove any water collected on the concrete. The second method utilized reject asphalt for the same purpose. The techniques described above have permitted patching operations to continue throughout the rainy season.

(c) Recommendation: Patches should be opened and covered on the same day. When this is not possible, consideration should be given to using cement or reject asphalt to seal the hole.

(d) Command Action: Cement or asphalt is used to seal all patches which cannot be covered prior to daily rains.

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20 November 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report- Lessons Learned, 554th Engr Bn. Period
ending 31 Oct 71, ACS CSFOR- 65 (R3)

(3) Construction of HHA Culverts:

(a) Observation: At Irong #3 on the COC was detailed to construct four (4), seven (7) section HHA culverts. Each completed culvert was 11 to 12 feet long and with 21 tons.

(b) Evaluation: Each culvert was vertically assembled in the trench area. The two (2), three (3) section culverts each 36 feet long were assembled. At the construction site these two sections were placed with two (2) feet between them. The seventh section was then assembled in between the two (2) ends.

(c) Recommendations: By using the HHA culverts in sections maximum construction could be done with the least amount of set power and supply means. The sections were 11 feet in length and weight so that they could be easily moved by hand or tractor and lowered into the trench.

(d) Command Action: All of the culverts were prefabricated in two (2), three (3) section culverts. The seventh piece was assembled between the two (2) sections. The sections were placed in the trench and the culverts were assembled.

(4) Excavation of a Trench in a Swampy Conditions:

(a) Observation: A trench was dug at the W. Stock Industrial Site. The trench was 100 feet long, and it was necessary to construct a trench with approximately 40 feet long.

(b) Evaluation: Initially, three (3) bulldozers were used to excavate the ditch. One (1) bulldozer was used at the ditch line and the other two (2) pulled with winches. This was a slow operation and winch cables were breaking frequently. Small line explosives were then used. These explosives were placed along the ditch centerline and detonated. Subsequent blasts were used to widen the ditch and clear the desired area.

(c) Recommendations: The use of small line explosive instead of bulldozers was a more efficient method of excavating a trench in swampy conditions.

(d) Command Action: Landmine explosives, rather than bulldozers were used in the excavation of a drainage ditch through a swampy area at the W. Stock Industrial Site. Winch cables on the bulldozers were spared from abuse and the bulldozers could be committed to other projects.

d Organization: NONE

e Training: NONE

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20 November 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report- Lessons Learned-554th Engr Bn. Period
ending 31 Oct 71, RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)

- f. Logistics: NONE
- g. Communications: NONE
- h. Material: NONE
- i. Other

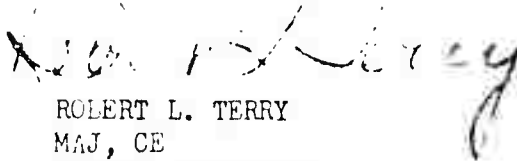
(5) Traffic control on road construction:

(a) Observation: Both Co A and Co B experienced great difficulties with Vietnamese traffic during paving and base course construction. Vietnamese traffic would not pay attention to U.S. personnel who tried to direct them, and bypasses were impossible due to the villagers lining the roadway.

(b) Evaluation: It was impossible to produce quality work without traffic control. It was coordinated with the Lam Dong Province Chief to try Vietnamese National Police and QC's on the paving and base course. Once the Vietnamese grasped the principals of traffic control the project was a success.

(c) Recommendation: When constructing in populated highly trafficked areas, local police support be sought for traffic control.

(d) Command Action: The 554th Engr Bn has followed this procedure and local police support is a part of daily construction.


ROBERT L. TERRY
MAJ, CE
Acting Commander

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AVEGB-OP (20 Nov 71) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 54th Engineer Battalion
Period Ending 31 Oct 71, PCS CSFOR-65 (R3)

HQ, 159th Engineer Group, APO 6491

27 NOV 1971

THRU: Commanding General, USA IAC, AFN: AVOC-AC, APO 6491
Co commanding General, USA IAC, AFN: AVOC-AC, APO 6375
Commander-in-Chief, USA IAC, AFN: AIC-DC, APO 6491

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development Department, The
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. The significant activities and lessons learned have been reviewed and
are an adequate description of the unit's operations during the period.

2. Reference lesson learned, "Financial and Administrative Control of
Base Camps," Section 2, para a(1), is recommended. Plans a reduction
of the periodic visits of JAGs and the holding of the unit. This has
been made possible by the alignment of a recent reference and will be
a legal section. No action by USA IAC or BA is recommended.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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AVCC-MO (20 Nov 71) 2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 554th Engineer Battalion
(Construction), Period Ending 31 October 1971, RCS CSFOW-65 (R3)

HQ, U.S. Army Engineer Command Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96491

TO: Commanding General, U.S. Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHDC-DO, APO San
Francisco 96375

The significant activities and lessons learned have been reviewed and are
an adequate reflection of the unit's operation during this period. No
action by USARPAC or DA is recommended.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Handwritten signature]
Major General
Acting Assistant Commanding General

CP:
554th Engineer Battalion
159th Engineer Group

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WFO-1 (10 Nov 71) 21 111

1st Airborne Engineer Battalion,
1st Airborne Division, (22)

1st Airborne Engineer Battalion, 1st Airborne Division, 11 Feb 1972

1st Airborne Engineer Battalion, 1st Airborne Division, 11 Feb 1972, 11 Feb 1972

1st Airborne Engineer Battalion, 1st Airborne Division, 11 Feb 1972, 11 Feb 1972

The End

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GPOP-FD (20 Nov 71) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 554th
Engineer Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1971,
RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 10 MAR 1972

TO: HQDA (DAFD-ZA) WASH DC 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

M. L. Mah

M. L. MAH
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

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